Transfer of an Executive of STC

1659. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that an executive of the State Trading Corporation, who with the help of another journalist member of the Newsprint Purchasing Committee of STC, has been transferred for exposing import fraud in the STC; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI -SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) and (b) In January, 1992 an executive of STC was transferred at the instance of two for mer Directors who levelled allegations against the concerned executive. How ever, after completion of an enquiry, it was found that the allegations levelled against the executive were not substantiat ed.

Manufacturing Facilities by Foreign Companies

1660. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Electronics have identified certain foreign leading companies for providing manufacturing facilities in India;

(b) if so, what are the names of those foreign companies;

(c) whether the above companies have agreed to provide manufacturing facilities in India; and

(d) if so, what are their terms and conditions in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (d) The Department of Electronics had preliminary discussions with some of the inter-.national companies known to have technological edge in the area of electronics. These discussions were to explore the possibility of their setting up manufacturing operations in India.

So far proposals of a few international companies have been cleared by the Government of India. These include the proposals : (i) M/s Tata Industries Limited for a joint venture with IBM, World Trade Corporation for setting up a computer manufacturing and software development facility; (ii) M/s Motorola for software developments; and (iii) M/s Wearnes Hollingsworth for manufacture of components; and (iv) M/s RPG electronics with Gold Star Limited of the Republic of Korea for consumer electronics. The terms and conditions, by and large, are as per the accepted norms of the Government of India.

Curbing Software Piracy

1661. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER b« pleased to state : the steps being taken to curb the increasing practice of software piracy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE *&* TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : Various measures taken by the Department of Electronics to curb software piracy are given below :—

(i) All the major government users have been advised to use only licenced copies of software pro ducts.

(it) The Department of Electronics has been closely interacting with the Manufacturers Association for Information & Technology (MA1T) and National Association of Software & Service Companies (NASSCOM), as a result of this a non-profit company Indian Federation Against Software Theft (INFAST) has been formed under Section 25 of Companies Act, with the objective *to* render protection '* against software piracy to • Indian and foreign software products.